December 18, 2006

Mr. Michael Murphy
Air and Radiation division
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd, AE-17J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Status of the PORTS Meteorological Tower

Re: telephone conversation between you and Greg Goslow, Kathy Easter, and Robert Blythe on November 6, 2006.

On October 25, 2006, the electronics technicians were performing the semiannual meteorological instrument change out with calibrated instruments. Instruments are located at 10, 30, and 60 meters. They had replaced all of the instruments and were raising the instrument platforms by means of the electrical elevator mechanism. As the upper platform approached its position, the cable broke, causing all three platforms to crash to the ground. No personnel were injured; they heard a noise and jumped clear of the area before the instruments hit the ground.

A USEC civil engineer conducted an investigation into the cause and determined that rodents had built a nest inside the winch box; the nest covered the winch reel and cable. It appears that rodent urine had caused the cable to corrode, although it still retained enough strength to allow the instrument platforms to be lowered. However, the additional stress of raising the platforms was too great for the defective cable.

On November 16, 2006, a representative from Tower Systems, Inc., performed a full inspection of the tower and made a list of needed repairs. A repair team arrived at the plant on Thursday, December 14, to make the repairs. The plant's electronics technicians are scheduled to begin the instrument installation on Monday, December 18. The system should be operational not later than Wednesday, December 20.

No meaningful on-site data except precipitation has been collected since October 25, 2006. The Ohio State University (OSU) Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) operates a series of research stations around the state, each of which has a weather station. Two of these facilities are near the plant, one just north of the plant and one at Jackson approximately 25 miles east of the plant. Hourly data at these sites include air temperature, wind

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speed, wind direction, standard deviation of the wind direction, solar radiation, relative humidity, and precipitation. Data for all of the stations are available on the OSU OARDC web site. Following is a description of the instrumentation from the web site: "Instrumentation includes sensors to measure global solar radiation at 6 m; temperature and relative humidity in a non-aspirated shelter at 1.5m; soil temperatures at 5 and 10 cm below a bare soil surface; wind speed and wind direction at 5 m, and precipitation at 1 m." In addition, National Weather Service data are available from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. USEC plans to use data from the OARDC Piketon station if available, with the OARDC Jackson data being second choice. The third choice is the Cincinnati NWS data.

Data from the meteorological tower are used to determine the annual dose assessment for the site in accordance with 40 CFR 61 Subpart H. Following the end of each calendar year, the meteorological data from the site are sent to Oak Ridge National Laboratory where a meteorologist reviews the data and corrects it as necessary using approved methods. He then generates the stability array (STAR) data files for input into the CAP88 model.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Robert Blythe at (740) 897-2758.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Jordan
General Manager

RWJ:RABlythe:sj

cc: Jim Anzelmo
Kathy Easter
Greg Goslow
Pam Potter
Steve Toelle , USEC-HQ
Records Management/ESHR - RC
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